

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for testing a respirator product, comprising:

a fan;

a suction conduit connected to said fan;

a pressure conduit connected to said fan;

5 a line section to the respirator product

a reversing valve connecting said fan to one of said pressure conduit and said suction conduit in terms of flow to said respirator product via said to said line section switched in a predetermined time sequence and connecting the other of said pressure conduit and said suction conduit to the environment via an open position;

10 a throttling element located ~~in the line section~~ between said fan and said respirator product, said throttling element having a cross-sectional area that can be varied;

a control unit setting said cross sectional area to a plurality of set points between fully opened and fully closed according to a preset manipulated variable.

2. (Currently Amended) A device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said reversing valve comprises a valve housing with a valve element swinging in a rotatably movable manner therein between two end positions, wherein said valve housing has two said valve inlets connected to said suction conduit and to said pressure ~~conduit~~ conduit, and a valve outlet leading to said respirator product and product, said valve element has a flow channel that connects one of said valve inlets to said valve outlet as well as one of said valve inlets to a

ventilation channel.

3. (Original) A device in accordance with claim 2, wherein the variable cross-sectional area of said throttling element is formed by the degree of overlap between the cross-sectional area of one of said valve inlets with the cross-sectional area of said flow channel wherein said valve element receives as the manipulated variable an angle of rotation position in relation to
5 said valve housing.

4. (Currently Amended) A device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said valve element is actuated by a motor.

5. (Original) A device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the preset manipulated variable has a signal curve alternately rising proportionally or declining proportionally.

6. (Currently Amended) A process for testing a respirator product, the process comprising the steps of:

providing a fan with a suction conduit and with a pressure conduit;

connecting the fan to the respirator product via a reversing valve to provide flow
5 connection of one of the suction conduit and the pressure conduit with the respirator product in a predetermined time sequence while said the other of said suction conduit and the pressure conduit is open toward the environment;

variably throttling the cross-sectional area of a line section between the fan and the
respirator product corresponding to a manipulated variable in order to control the flow of gas
10 to said respirator product corresponding to a preset breathing pattern.

7. (Original) A process in accordance with claim 6, wherein an approximately
sinusoidal pressure curve is selected as the breathing pattern.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A device system in accordance with claim 8 13, wherein said
~~fluid control means~~ valve comprises a reversing valve with a valve housing with two valve
inlets connected selectively to said suction conduit and to said pressure conduit, and having
a valve outlet leading to said respirator product the breathing mask, and with said reversing
5 valve including a valve element having a flow channel that connects one of said valve inlets
to said valve outlet as well as one of said valve inlets to a ventilation channel, and said valve
element flow channel is being rotatably movable between said inlets.

10. (Currently Amended) A device system in accordance with claim 9, wherein:
said throttling element varies said cross-sectional area corresponding to a manipulated
variable:

the said variable ~~throttling of the~~ cross-sectional area ~~of the line section~~ occurs based

5 on a degree of overlap between the cross-sectional area of one of said valve inlets with the cross-sectional area of said flow channel wherein said valve element receives as the manipulated variable an angle of rotation position in relation to said valve housing .

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A device system in accordance with claim ~~11~~ 9, wherein the preset manipulated variable has a signal curve alternately rising proportionally or declining proportionally.

13. (New) A testing system for a breathing mask, the system comprising:

a fan having a suction conduit and a pressure conduit;

a line section having a test end connected to the breathing mask, said line section also having a valve end;

5 a valve selectively connecting a flow of one of said pressure conduit and said suction conduit to said valve end of said line section;

a throttling element arranged between said fan and said test end of said line section, said throttling element having a variable cross-sectional area to vary a flow of gas between said fan and said test end of said line section.

14. (New) A system in accordance with claim 13, further comprising:

a control unit controlling said throttling element to one of increase and decrease the flow of gas to the test end over a period substantially similar to a breathing pattern of a user of the breathing mask.

15. (New) A system in accordance with claim 14, wherein:

said control unit controls said throttling element to vary said one of said increase and decrease in the flow of gas according to a plurality of different pressure curves.

16. (New) A system in accordance with claim 13, further comprising:

a testing head connected to said test end of said line section, said testing head being connectable to the breathing mask for detecting leakage.

17. (New) A system in accordance with claim 13, wherein:

said throttling element is arranged in said valve.

18. (New) A system in accordance with claim 17, wherein:

said valve has a valve element defining a flow channel, said valve element being rotatable to selectively connect said flow channel to said one of said pressure conduit and said suction conduit, said valve element also being rotatable to vary a cross section of the flow through said valve and form said throttling element.

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19. (New) A system in accordance with claim 14, wherein:

said control unit controls said throttling element to one of continuously increase and decrease the flow of gas to the test end over said period;

said valve connects the other of said pressure conduit and said suction conduit to the environment.

20. (New) A system in accordance with claim 14, wherein:

said control unit controls said throttling element to vary the flow along a substantially sinusoidal pressure curve.

21. (New) A system in accordance with claim 15, wherein:

a testing head is connected to said test end of said line section, said testing head being connectable to the breathing mask for detecting leakage;

said throttling element is arranged in said valve;

said valve has a valve element defining a flow channel, said valve element being rotatable to selectively connect said flow channel to said one of said pressure conduit and said suction conduit, said valve element also being rotatable to vary a cross section of the flow through said valve and form said throttling element;

said valve connects the other of said pressure conduit and said suction conduit to the environment;

said control unit controls said throttling element to vary the flow along a substantially

sinusoidal pressure curve.

22. (New) A process in accordance with claim 6, wherein :

said throttling sets said cross sectional area to a plurality of set points between fully opened and fully closed.